

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

RSR-01 /107 W

----- 007503

R 040720Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2941

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 2481

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UK US UG

SUBJECT: AMIN CALLS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH HMG,
PRAISES BRITISH

REF: KAMPALA 2245; KAMPALA 2453

1. GOU ANNOUNCED AUGUST 2 THAT PRESIDENT AMIN RECEIVED REPLY FROM QUEEN TO HIS EARLIER MESSAGE (REFTELS). ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT CONTENTS OF QUEEN'S MESSAGE WERE NOT DISCLOSED BUT UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE SAID THAT QUEEN VERY ANXIOUS TO MEET PRES. AMIN TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. MESSAGE ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED NEED FOR AMIN TO MEET PM HEATH AND DISCUSS HOW TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS. ACTING BRITISH HICOM STEWART REPORTEDLY TOLD AMIN, UPON DELIVERING QUEEN'S MESSAGE, THAT PM WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AND IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESTORE TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY TIES. PRES. TOLD STEWART THAT FULL TEXT OF HIS MESSAGE TO COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE WILL BE RELEASED AUGUST 4 WHEN UGANDA CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC WAR. PRES. STATED HE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO WELCOME QUEEN AND PM TO UGANDA AND SUGGESTED THAT NEXT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE BE HELD
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HERE. SAID FURTHER HE IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO NORMALIZE

RELATIONS, EMPHASIZED THAT BRITAIN HAD TRAINED MANY UGANDANS, AND SINGLED OUT CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES FOR SPECIAL PRAISE, NOTING THAT HE HIMSELF WAS EDUCATED IN PROTESTANT MISSIONARY SCHOOLS. PRES. TOLD STEWART THAT UGANDAN ECONOMY IS NOW SOUND AND CREDIT FOR THIS GOES TO BRITISH, WHO TAUGHT UGANDANS HOW TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY. DECLARED THERE IS NO LONGER A SECURITY PROBLEM IN UGANDA BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN WELL-TRAINED BY THE BRITISH.

2. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO HICOM OFFICIALS, GOU ANNOUNCEMENT GREATLY EXAGGERATED ACTUAL CONTENT OF QUEEN'S MESSAGE. THEY SAY IT WAS SHORT, FAIRLY IMPERSONAL AND WENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: REGRET I WAS AIRBORNE WHEN YOUR REQUEST FOR SPECIAL AIRCRAFT AND SCOTS GUARDS WAS RECEIVED IN LONDON--CERTAINLY HOPE YOU WILL DECIDE TO ATTEND OTTAWA MEETING--IF YOU DO, I WOULD HOPE TO MEET YOU, ALONG WITH ALL OTHER HEADS OF COMMONWEALTH STATES. END COMMENT.
BURROWS

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NNN

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